UNITED
NATIONS

E

Economic and Social Council

Distr.
LIMITED

E/AC.51/1991/L.4/Add.20
7 June 1991

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

COMMITTEE FOR PROGRAMME AND COORDINATION
Thirty-first session
13 May-7 June 1991
Agenda item 7

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ITS THIRTY-FIRST SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: Mr. Boris GOUDIMA (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

III. PROGRAMME QUESTIONS

Proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993

Section 10. Law of the sea and ocean affairs

1. At its 22nd meeting, on 28 May, the Committee considered section 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

Discussion

2. A number of delegations expressed interest in the progress made in promoting the wider acceptance and uniform application of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. Support was expressed, in particular, for assistance to developing countries in maximizing benefits from the Convention.

3. A number of delegations questioned the premise, as stated in paragraphs 10.2 and 10.5 of the proposed programme budget, that the Convention would enter into force soon and consequently that the biennium 1992-1993 would be a transitional period.

4. General concern was expressed over the use of consultants. To some delegations it appeared that consultants were being used as a substitute for staff resources. To some delegations, which did not object to the use of consultants for specialized studies in areas where the Secretariat lacked specialized expertise, it was important that consultants should be selected on a wide geographical basis. To other delegations, the resources proposed were an indication that the recommendation concerning consultants made by the Group of High-level Intergovernmental Experts to Review the Efficiency of the Administrative and Financial Functioning of the United Nations was being forgotten.

5. Some delegations were of the view that the number of publications programmed was too large and that the resources were being spent on small, specialized audiences. Other delegations questioned the practical effect of the information gathering activities in subprogramme 2.

6. Different views were expressed on the proposed reclassification of a post at the Professional level.

7. Some delegations stated that operational activities should be funded exclusively from extrabudgetary resources.

Reservation

8. One delegation expressed a reservation on the inclusion of subprogramme 4 (Servicing of the Preparatory Commission for the International Sea-Bed Authority and for the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea) and its financing under the regular budget.

Conclusions and recommendations

9. The Committee recommended approval by the General Assembly of the programme narrative of section 10 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.